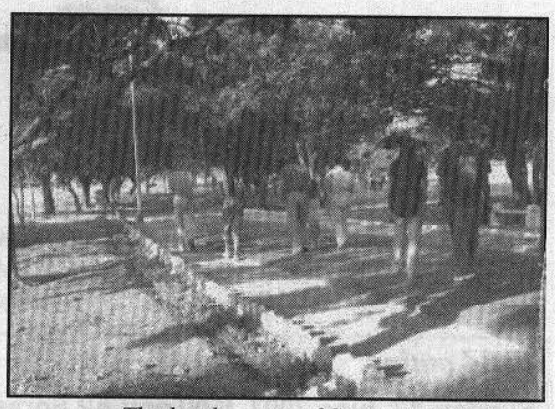
of the Buddha Purnima Project. Later we were joined by Mr Bhaskar Ramana Murthy, IPS, Member Secretary, AP Biodiversity Board and Mr Rajshekar Reddy, Social Scientist. We had a very interesting interaction with these learned gentlemen and were later treated to a sumptuous breakfast, for which we thank Mr Chandra Mohan.

While on this subject and deviating from the subject of birding, I would like to dwell upon the proposed future development of the park about which we had discussions, comfortably seated under a shady peltaforum.



The lovely acres of Sanjeeviah Park are threatened by a projected amusement park.

The park is to be converted into an entertainment and recreation ground with an amphi theater, party zone (as if hotels and function halls are not enough), parking lots, childrens' playground, museum, mono-rail, cable car, indoor swimming pool, food courts, and what have you. A detailed map showing the proposed and so-called "developments" was also displayed.

We all protested vehemently and pleaded that the park should remain a "park", open only during day time, with lot of trees, plants and lawns, so that the serene atmosphere can continue to be enjoyed by morning walkers, families and children. In fact, various suggestions were given by us to further improve the park; for instance, increasing the green cover by planting more trees and plants endemic to our region, creating a butterfly park by propagating suitable mother plants, development of a large cactus garden which would be unique to Hyderabad (similar or better than the one at Chandigarh), construction of a "board walk" along the periphery and partially in the lake waters with aquatic reeds on either side, etc.

We all hope that better sense will prevail since there are enough day-night entertainment places dotting the lakeside such as NTR Gardens, Lumbini Park, Eat Street, Rock Garden, Jalavihar and others. We therefore appeal to one and all that the character of Sanjeevaiah Park not be disturbed. It is an excellent lung space for the citizens of Hyderabad who are already suffering from global warning and pollution. We hope the tranquil atmosphere of the park will be maintained instead of creating a concrete monstrosity.

Report: International Biodiversity Day

By Ashok Kumar

International Biodiversity Day was celebrated on 22 May 2007 at Indira Priyadarshini Hall, Public Gardens, under the aegis of the AP State Biodiversity Board with the active support and participation of AP Forest Academy, Dulapally. Stalls put up by various environmental societies were star attractions and these included the Worldwide Fund for Nature, AP Chapter; the Forest Department; Deccan Development Society; Butterfly Conservation Society; publishers Oriental Longman; Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology, Hyderabad Office; and the Birdwatchers' Society of Andhra Pradesh. WWF and BSAP also put up their products for sale.

The Chief Guests Padmashree Dr MV Rao, MLC, former Vice-Chancellor of the Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University and Norman Borlough awardee; Smt Janaki Kondapi, IAS, Special Chief Secretary; and Mr Thulasi Rao, Asst. Conservator of Forests (Biodiversity) spoke on biodiversity and the need for their conservation.

Mr K Mrutyunjaya Rao, Honorary Wildlife Warden, Guntur, and a member of BSAP, was felicitated for his pioneering work of conservation at Uppalapadu.

The Chairman and the Member Secretary, AP Biodiversity Board, in their address stressed the need and necessity to protect and conserve our biodiversity. The Deccan Development Society which has been rendering yeoman service in the rural sector hosted an ethnic lunch for the guests, adding a rural touch to the event.